

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In an effort to help the fight against illegal drugs, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez successfully amended the bipartisan Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act today to allow for funding drug prevention programs.

The amendment, which was passed by a voice vote in the House Judiciary Committee, allows up to 5% of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funds to be used for drug prevention programs.

"I offered this amendment because we need a comprehensive and flexible approach to fighting drugs," said Congresswoman Sanchez. "There is a consensus among law enforcement agencies that prevention programs are a necessary part of a successful strategy to fight drugs and crime. A representative from the National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition visited my office recently to make exactly that point."

"The manufacturing, trafficking, and use of illegal narcotics, including methamphetamine, has reached epidemic proportions in Southern California and nationwide," continued Sánchez.

"We need to arm our dedicated law enforcement agents with every available weapon to fight the war on drugs. That includes prevention programs so that we can stop drug abuse before it starts," concluded Sánchez.